

BURKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING

September 14, 2021

The Burke County Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, September 14, 2021, at 6:00 PM in the Courtroom at the Burke County Courthouse. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Terri Lodge Kelly. Commissioners Abrams, Nix, Martin and Lively, along with County Attorney, Barry Fleming and County Manager Merv Waldrop were also in attendance.

Manager Waldrop gave the invocation for the meeting and Commissioner Martin led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.

Chairman Kelly stated there would be an addition to the agenda. Commissioner Abrams motioned to adopt the agenda to include the addition and Commissioner Nix seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Commissioner Nix motioned to approve the minutes from August 10th, 11th, 16th, 24th, and 31st. Commissioner Martin seconded and motion passed unanimously.

Manessa Stokes thanked the Board on behalf of the Gough Improvement Association and the Gough Fest event.

Myron Williams, Chief Ranger, Georgia Forestry Commission, provided the Board with the Georgia Forestry Commission's Annual Report covering July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021.

The Board then received two proposals for Property & Casualty Insurance. Submitted proposals were from Cox Insurance and ACCG Insurance and were referred to the Finance Committee Meeting on September 15, 2022, at 3:00 PM.

There were no bids received for Road Striping Paint.

Appointments to fill Development Authority positions were discussed. Commissioner Nix motioned to reappoint Barrett Wimberly, Lindsay Gentry and Suzanne Sharkey and to appoint John Jackson for the 4-year term. Commissioner Abrams seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The Board then offered nominees for the Planning Committee. District 1 – Lee Webster; District 3 – Jason Blackburn; District 4 – Carolyn Heath; and District 5 – Ben Roberts. Commissioner Nix motioned to accept the given nominees and Commissioner Martin seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

An expiring term on the Hospital Authority was then discussed. Commissioner Martin motioned to reappoint Joe Jackson, Jr for an additional 4-year term. Commissioner Abrams seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Abrams then discussed the leasing and maintenance of property located in Gough near the park for vehicle parking. The legal description and ownership of said property is not clear. This item was tabled until such time as a property survey based on the recorded deed can be completed.

The City of Vidette submitted a \$2,900 invoice for tree removal from the Vidette city park. Per Manager Waldrop, quotes were not received, and the matter was not brought before the Commission for prior approval. Commissioner Abrams motioned to pay the \$2,900 invoice in its entirety with Commissioners Nix seconding. Motion passed 3-2 with Commissioners Abrams, Nix, and Kelly in favor and Commissioners Martin and Lively opposed.

Sheriff Williams requested the Board approve a budget amendment moving \$37,308 from the Sheriff's Office budget to the Detention Center budget and \$7,579 to the small grants fund for the COPS grant. Other amendments will move funds from Vehicle Maintenance & Facility Maintenance into various other accounts. Commissioner Nix motioned to approve the budget amendments with Commissioner Martin seconding. Motion passed 5-0.

The Board then considered budget amendments for various departments. The amendment would move funding from the contingency fund into 911, Legal Services, Tornado Response and the DA's appropriation funds. Commissioner Nix motioned to approve the budget amendments. Commissioner Martin seconded and motion passed unanimously.

The Board was then provided with and Annexation Notice from the City of Waynesboro. The proposed properties to be annexed are Map 066, Parcel 043 (3.95 acres) and a portion of Map 066, Parcel 043s (.11

acres) and are to be as R-3 High Density Residential and R-1 Low Density Residential. Commissioners’ concerns were raised as to increased traffic flow and increased maintenance costs of Brinson Road with such development. The Board requested entrances be reconsidered and resubmitted. Mr. Eric Parker addressed the Board, opposing the property access. Mike Smith, Mike Smith Forestry & Realty, stated he would see the Petition be withdrawn and resubmitted, addressing concerns. Commissioner Lively motioned to object to the Notice of Intended Annexation based on zoning, land use, and density. Commissioner Abrams seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Marian Jackson, Tax Commissioner, requested the Board waive penalty & interest on Parcel 098-005 owned by Bill Grady in the amount of \$7,640.90 and on Parcel W07-006 owned by Sammie Loftin in the amount of \$225.48. Commissioner Nix motioned deny the waiving of penalty & interest on Parcel 098-005 and to approve the waiving of penalty & interest on Parcel W07-006. Commissioner Abrams seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

The Board then considered the updating of the Drug & Alcohol testing policy for Burke Transit per US DOT regulations to continue to receive federal funding. Changes include definitions in DOT departments, the federal DOT website, and Test Refusal. An additional change to the policy is in the Prohibited Substances guidelines. Commissioner Nix motioned to approve the updating of Burke Transit’s Drug & Alcohol testing policy and Commissioner Abrams seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Approval of the contract with CSRA Regional Commission for Burke Transit funding was then considered. This funding, in the amount of \$21,137, will assist in providing transportation services to qualified senior citizens. Commissioner Abrams motioned to approve the contract with CSRA Regional Commission with Commissioner Nix seconding. Motion passed 5-0.

The Board then considered the adoption of a Resolution to authorize Chairman Kelly to execute a contract with CSRA Regional Commission for Senior Nutrition Program funding. This contract will fund up to \$89,032 to purchase meals. Commissioner Martin motioned to adopt a Resolution authorizing Chairman Kelly to execute the CSRA contract and Commissioner Abrams seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Commissioners then needed to approve the issuance of a Purchase Order to Augusta Communications in the amount of \$36,457 for emergency lightning strike repairs to the radio tower. Commissioner Martin motioned to approve the purchase order be issued and Commissioner Abrams seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Commissioners then needed to approve the issuance of a Purchase Order to Yancey Brothers in the amount of \$54,189.10 for bulldozer repairs. Commissioner Abrams motioned to approve the purchase order for Yancey Brothers and Commissioner Nix seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

The City of Waynesboro and Burke County Animal Services have developed a proposed agreement for the County to provide animal control services to the city. Discussion was held regarding current shelter animal population and the importance of maintaining good relationships with other agencies. Waynesboro City Council has given tentative approval. Commissioner Lively motioned to approve the contract to provide animal control services to the City of Waynesboro and Commissioner Abrams seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Chad Parrish, Animal Services, reported they will be having a cat adoption event on Saturday, September 18, 2021.

Sheriff Williams urged the Board to come to decisions regarding the unresolved budget items concerning the FY2022 budget. The Board advised Sheriff Williams to meet with Michael Wiseman, Finance Director, and Barry Fleming, Attorney.

Being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM.

Terri Lodge Kelly, Chairman

Lucious Abrams

Evans Martin, Vice-Chairman

Q. U. “Art” Lively

R. Tommy Nix

Merv Waldrop, Manager